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# Public Health Reports.

(Formerly "Abstract of Sanitary Reports.")

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No. 3.

## UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Service.]

### *Resolutions of the Tennessee State board of health relative to the prevalence of smallpox in Arkansas.*

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH,  
*Nashville, January 9, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the following preamble and resolution, unanimously adopted at the meeting of the Tennessee State board of health, January 7, 1896:

"WHEREAS, There has existed for some weeks past a number of foci of smallpox among the negro settlements, located near the Mississippi River, in the State of Arkansas, and

"WHEREAS, For weeks the lives and health of the people living in those counties of Tennessee which form the opposite bank of said river, have been placed in constant jeopardy by the practice of surreptitiously passing to and fro of the inhabitants of these infected centers, a number of instances already have thus recently occurred in which smallpox was brought into our State by these people, and which practice under ordinary means, is practically impossible to prevent; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Surgeon-General of the United States Marine-Hospital Service be, and he is hereby, requested to take, without delay, such steps as will give the western boundaries of Tennessee that protection from this pest which, under recent Federal law, is provided for the States, and which, under the circumstances, our people are so justly entitled to."

With high respect, your obedient servant,

J. BERRIEN LINDSLEY,  
*Secretary and Executive Officer.*

SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL U. S. M. H. S.

NOTE.—In compliance with the request contained in the above resolutions, Passed Assistant Surgeon A. C. Smith, M. H. S., has been

ordered to proceed to Mississippi and Crittenden Counties, Arkansas, and make a report on the prevalence of smallpox in those localities.

*One case of smallpox at Nogales, Ariz.*

NOGALES, ARIZ., *January 6, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to report 1 new case of smallpox in Nogales, Ariz. Very respectfully,

W. F. CHENOWETH,  
*Sanitary Inspector, M. H. S.*

*Smallpox in New Orleans.*

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *January 8, 1896.*

SIR: Referring to the several reports made from time to time from this office relative to the prevalence of smallpox in this city, I have to state that during the past year ended December 31, 1895, there were reported 297 cases with 57 deaths. Number remaining at pesthouse, 24; at home, 10. The cases under treatment at their homes are quarantined and guarded by sanitary officers under the direction of the board of health. The house-to-house inspection commenced last October has been nearly completed. Vaccination has been offered to the people throughout the city free of charge, but many persons were found who refused the offer, and hence they continue to be a source of danger to the entire population, and seriously embarrass the board of health in its efforts to stamp out the disease. Indeed, the sanitary officials report that most of the new cases now discovered come from among the unvaccinated. A law making vaccination compulsory would be in the interest of the public health. It should be remarked that no cases have been discovered on river steamboats at this port since the completion of the vaccination of roustabouts along the rivers last spring.

Fifty-six cases of diphtheria were reported during the month of December with 7 deaths, and 8 remained on hand at the close of the month. Antitoxine is largely used in the treatment of the disease with marked success.

Very respectfully,

HENRY W. SAWTELLE,  
*Surgeon, M. H. S.*

*Report of smallpox in Pennsylvania—Diphtheria in Philadelphia.*

PHILADELPHIA, *January 9, 1896.*

SIR: Since my last report, December 12, 1895, only 1 case of smallpox has been reported in Pennsylvania, namely, at Knoxville, Allegheny County, December 17, 1895. The patient recovered.

One fatal case of cerebro-spinal meningitis has been reported in Philadelphia.

The number of cases of diphtheria reported in Philadelphia since December 12, 1895, has been 451; number of deaths, 134.

Yours, very truly,

BENJN. LEE,  
*Secretary State Board of Health.*

*One case of smallpox in the United States marine hospital at Memphis.*

MEMPHIS, TENN., *January 7, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that a case of smallpox was discovered in the hospital wards this morning, the patient being John Watkins, colored, permit No. 121, admitted the 5th instant, having been